

# Hospitality, Restaurant & Gaming Management Program Now Being Offered at SWOSU

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A new hospitality, restaurant & gaming management program has been launched at Southwestern Oklahoma State University's campus in Sayre.

Program director Bill D'Alessandro, who has worked in the industry for over 35 years, said the associate of science degree program is designed for those who seek a career in the exciting hospitality industry at the management level.

"We are not looking for top chefs but top managers," D'Alessandro said. "This program is a business management degree specifically tailored to students who seek a career path as managers in the hotel, restaurant and gaming enterprises."

SWOSU was granted approval by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education to start the program. D'Alessandro said Oklahoma is expected to add over 25,000 jobs in these fields over the next five years. Entry-level salaries for graduates with hospitality degrees are generally in the \$42,000-48,000 range with benefits for a five-day, 55-hour work week. General manager and above positions offer pay scales of \$65,000 to \$250,000 or more.

D'Alessandro said the HRGM program at SWOSU will provide students with a balanced view of the industry, combining classroom activities with interaction among industry professionals and hands-on internships. SWOSU is already planning to work with Quartz Mountain Resort this summer.

Originally from New York City, D'Alessandro has worked across the country in various capacities. He taught eight years in the areas of hospitality management at Texas Tech University and North College in Irving (TX). He was the chief architect of the plan that created the Depot District, an entertainment and hospitality complex in Lubbock, Texas. D'Alessandro has also been a television chef and caterer.

For additional information about the new HRGM program at SWOSU, contact D'Alessandro at 580.928.5533 extension 2156 or [bill.dalessandro@swosu.edu](mailto:bill.dalessandro@swosu.edu).